



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR.
CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 23, 2007

Contact: Amy Saunders

Phone: (304) 558-2021

Attorney General Darrell McGraw Calls the Attention of Consumers That This Week is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week

Charleston – In the wake of millions of toy recalls that began earlier this summer, Attorney General Darrell McGraw wants to bring to consumers attention that this week is National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. At the federal level this information campaign is being spearheaded by the National Centers for Disease Control Prevention in Atlanta Georgia. The CDC website contains a great deal of information both as to the effects of lead, places and items which pose a threat and preventative measures. Consumers can log on to CDC's website at www.cdc.gov for more information. Information is also available at the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources website, www.wvdhhr.org/bph.

Attorney General McGraw stated that the recent increase in recalls combined with the volume of calls and website visits to the Attorney General's website, www.wvago.gov relating to toys solidified his decision to continue his offices efforts to protect consumers from lead. McGraw cautions, however, that the problem is more widespread than just toys and jewelry and that consumers need to remain alert to other sources through the internet sites and news media.

"My staff continues to monitor retailers around the state for suspected items and to ensure that recalled products are removed from. Where such products appear to contain lead we attempt to work with the business to ensure the products are safe or removed," McGraw stated.

The Attorney General's website contains helpful information regarding lead, particularly lead in toys and children's jewelry as well as links to the Consumer Product Safety Commission and the CDC websites. "We continue to work with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to conduct free lead testing of toys and recalled items," stated McGraw. The next testing location will be at the Capital City Arts and Crafts show at the Charleston Civic Center, on Friday November 16 from 5p.m. – 9.p.m. Saturday November 17 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Please log on to www.wvago.gov for more details.

##